

St. Landry Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	St. Landry	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	29.3%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	37.9%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	10.4%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,642	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	91.9%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.3%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	9.6	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	74.1%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	69.9%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.5%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	19.1%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	290.8	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	195.0	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	2.3*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	233.0	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	213.7	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	81.8	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	55.7	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	31.8	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	33.0	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	9.1	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.9	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 4	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	24.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	28.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	71.6%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.6%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	76.0%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United States, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

St. Landry was established on April 10, 1805. It was named after St. Landry, the saint who founded the Hotel Dieu in Paris in the sixth century. Most of the inhabitants are descendants of the Acadians, but many French (some who came late in the 1600s), English, Scotch-Irish, and Germans later settled in the area, forming a potpourri of Americana. The citizens of the parish have preserved many of the early customs, such as the fais-do-do (lively dancing in the streets). The Louisiana Yambilee Festival is an annual fall event. From the Liberty Theatre in Eunice, hosting the best Cajun and Zydeco music, to the academy of Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, to the Atchafalaya gateway towns of Krotz Springs and Melville, St. Landry parish captures the spirit of the people of Acadiana. Three historic districts, in Grand Coteau, Washington and Opelousas, preserve the past. Washington, once the largest steamboat port between New Orleans and St. Louis, preserves its 19th century architecture and character and offers an antique mall and a number of antique shops. Grand Coteau features two of the nation's oldest religious institutions. Opelousas served as the Confederate capital of Louisiana and Jim Bowie spent his boyhood here. Many weekend festivals are held throughout the parish.



Parish Seat³ Opelousas

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Opelousas
- Eunice

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	87,700
2003 (estimate)	89,041
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	56.5%
African-American	42.1%
Some other race.....	1.4%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	0.9%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.8%
5-14	16.2%
15-17	5.5%
18-19	3.1%
20-24	6.1%
25-64	47.9%
65 & over	13.4%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	30ft.
Land area in square miles	929
Water area in square miles	10.2

Climate

Average temperatures	
Annual	70°
January	55°
July	83°
Annual average rainfall	57.2 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

St. Landry Parish	
Civilian.....	33,764
Employed	31,572
Unemployed.....	2,192
Unemployment.....	6.5%
Louisiana	
Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Louisiana State University and A&M College, Baton Rouge
- Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge
- Louisiana State University, Eunice
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.